

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01

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FM AMCONSUL PERTH

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0922

CINCPACFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT

USS OKLAHOMA CITY

UNCLAS PERTH 0089

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: USS OKLAHOMA CITY CALLS AT PERTH

1. SUMMARY: USS OKLAHOMA CITY (OKC) DEPARTED FREMANTLE YESTERDAY FOLLOWING OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT FEATURING BICENTENNIAL THEME. IN ADDITION TO DESERVEDLY FAMED PERTH HOSPITALITY, SALIENT ASPECT OF VISIT WAS AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE CALL BY SEVENTH FLEET FLAG SHIP WITH COMSEVENTHFLT ABOARD. VISIT TO OKC ON 24 APRIL BY PRIME MINISTER AND MRS FRAZER AND SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSIONS HELD ABOARD AMONG PM, WEST AUSTRALIAN PREMIER COURT AND VADM HAYWARD EMPHASIZED THIS ASPECT OF VISIT.

2. COMSEVENTHFLT HAS REPORTED CLASSIFIED SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PM AND PREMIER VIA NAVAL CHANNELS WITH REQUEST PASS STATE AND POLAD/CINCPAC. PM'S VISIT, MADE POSSIBLE BY HIS PRESENCE IN PERTH PREVIOUS DAY FOR LIBERAL PARTY EXECUTIVE MEETING, WAS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER ARRIVAL OF OKC.

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EM OKC FIRST MADE BRIEF CALL 19 APRIL AT NEARLY COMPLETE

AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY AT GARDEN ISLAND IN COCKBURN SOUND. LOCAL PRESS EMPHASIZED SYMBOLIC NATURE OF FIRST VISIT BY FOREIGN WARSHIP AT AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY IN INDIAN OCEAN. VADM HAYWARD AND SHIP'S OFFICERS WERE WARMLY WELCOMED AT RECEPTION BY SHIRE COUNCIL OF ROCKINGHAM, LOCALITY NEAREST GARDEN ISLAND.

4. ON PASSAGE UP COCKBURN SOUND TO FREMANTLE OKC HOSTED SIZEABLE COLLECTION LOCAL VIPS INCLUDING PREMIER COURT (LP) AND STATE OPPOSITION LEADER COLIN JAMIESON (ALP). SHIP'S ARRIVAL AT FREMANTLE GREETED BY MULTITUDE OF PRIVATE YACHTS OUT OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS. MOOTED TUG BOAT BLACK BAN DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

5. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE AND EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE WITH SOLE EXCEPTION OF CARTOON IN PRINCIPAL LOCAL DAILY SHOWING OKC ATTRACTING A HAIL OF NUCLEAR BOMBS TO COCKBURN SOUND. MEDIA COVERAGE PARTICULARLY FEATURED A) BICENTENNIAL THEME, DISPLAYED ESPECIALLY BY EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY UNIFORMS DONNED BY DUTY PERSONNEL AT GANGWAY, B) THE SEVENTH FLEET BAND, AND C) CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY OKC PERSONNEL. VADM HAYWARD HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED US DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ITS NAVAL STRENGTH IN SEVENTH FLEET AREA. CONFERENCE COVERED BY ALL THREE LOCAL TV STATIONS AS WELL AS MAIN LOCAL DAILY. PRIME MINISTER HELD IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE ON QUARTER DECK IN WHICH HE STRESSED NEED FOR AUSTRALIA TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR US CAPABILITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AND STATED THAT SOVIETS WERE "FORCING THE PACE", NOT THE US OR AUSTRALIA. MAIN SUNDAY PAPER CLAIMED PM HELD PREPLANNED "SECRET DEFENSE TALKS" DURING HIS VISIT TO OKC.

6. ONLY TWO MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURED WITH ABOUT 20 PERSONS EACH INVOLVED. ONE FAVORED AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENCE BY EXCLUSION US MILITARY PRESENCE AND OTHER OPPOSED USE OF COCKBURN SOUND BY NUCLEAR POWERED OR ARMED SHIPS. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS OF ANY KIND INVOLVING USN PERSONNEL.

7. RECIPROCAL HOSPITALITY WAS AT MAXIMUM WITH DIAL-A-SAILOR CONTINUALLY OVERSUBSCRIBED AND THRONGS OF VISITORS TOTALING OVER 25,000 ABOARD OKC.

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IM VISIT CAPPED ON LAST DAY BY OKC PARTICIPATION IN TRADITIONAL ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES, INCLUDING DETACHMENTS AND BAND MARCHING IN PARADE REVIEWED BY WA GOVERNOR AND VADM HAYWARD.

9. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE PERTH, COMSEVENTHFLT VISITED COMNAVSTA AT NORTHWEST CAPE AND, IN COMPANY WITH DEPUTY PREMIER O'NEIL (LP), MADE BRIEF TOUR IN WA'S NORTHWEST OF IRON ORE MINING AND SHIPPING OPERATIONS AND OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS OPERATION.

10. USN, SEVENTHFLT AND OKC DESERVE A HEARTY "WELL-DONE".
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